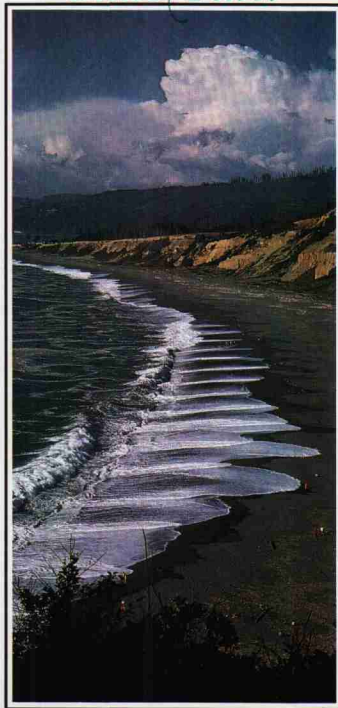


PATRICK'S POINT State Park

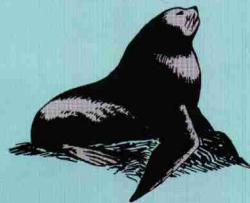


Patrick's Point is a tree- and meadow-covered headland with a broad sandy beach that juts into the Pacific Ocean thirty miles north of Eureka. Though the 640-acre park is in the heart of California's coast redwood country, the principal trees within the park are spruce, hemlock, pine, fir and red alder. Spring and summer wildflowers include Douglas iris, trillium, azalea, rhododendron, fairy bells, false lilies-of-the-valley, skunk cabbage, and salal. In addition, the blooms of blackberry, huckleberry, thimbleberry, and salmonberry bushes bring color to the meadows.

The shoreline here ranges from broad sandy stretches of beach to sheer cliffs that rise high above the sea. A number of "sea stacks" - parts of the mainland that have been isolated by the pounding surf - stand offshore like pickets. South of Agate Beach, several trails wind down the cliffs to ledges from which fishermen catch ling cod, greenlings, sea trout and rock cod.

Just south of Patrick's Point is Abalone Point, where the Yuroks had a seasonal camp. Though the Yuroks lived in permanent villages north and south of the park, they came here in the summer to harvest fish, mussels, sea lions and other game.

Black-tailed deer are a common sight along the bluffs and in the meadows, especially at sunup and sundown. You may see and hear sea lions and seals on the offshore rocks in the southern part of the park near Palmer's Point. Here, too, you can investigate the fascinating world of the tidepool. Look, but please don't disrupt the life you can see in these pools. Removing the animals that live in these pools can kill them, and they are, after all, protected by law.



California Sea Lion

Many varieties of shore birds visit the park during the spring and fall migrations, and Stellar's jays are apt to enliven the campgrounds with their raucous chatter at any time of year. The park museum features rotating exhibits about the area's plants, animals, tide pools, marine mammals, and the agates that give the beach its name.

Wedding Rock, Patrick's Point and Palmer's Point are excellent places to view the spring and fall migrations of the California gray whale. This annual migration along the west coast of North America is one of the world's outstanding wildlife spectacles. In traveling between their summer feeding grounds in the Bering Sea and their winter breeding grounds along the coast of Mexico, the forty-foot gray whales cover ten thousand miles in a year - the longest migration undertaken by any mammal.

Like all the north coast, Patrick's Point has night and morning fog almost all year. During the summer it sometimes doesn't lift for days at a time although beautiful, crystal-clear days can often be enjoyed in spring and fall. Rainfall averages about sixty inches a year, most of it between October and April. Temperatures are moderate. Winter lows average 38 degrees; summer highs average 62 degrees.

AGATE BEACH

This gently curving sand strip can be reached by a short, steep trail from the Agate Beach Campground. Semi-precious agates, for which the beach is named, are polished here by the constant movement of sand and water. Winter's driving winds and high tides also deposit driftwood of many shapes and sizes.

TRAILS

Rim Trail is a two-mile-long walk that offers excellent views of the ocean and offshore rocks as it follows the edge of the bluff around three sides of the park, from the Agate Beach parking area to Palmer's Point. Six rather steep, quarter-mile-long trails connect the Rim Trail to the shoreline and some of the best spots in the park for tidepooling or beach combing.

The Octopus Tree Trail loops through a grove of old-growth Sitka spruce. Some of these trees originally sprouted on top of old logs and then sent their roots stretching on to the ground below.

Once the old logs rotted completely away, these trees were left standing on long, tentacle-like roots. This quarter-mile-long self-guided nature trail provides a good opportunity to learn about some of the park's most interesting plant life.

The terrace that now makes up the main part of the park was once entirely submerged beneath the ocean. A trail system makes it easy to explore the forests and meadows that now cover this old marine terrace. A couple of short, steep trails make it possible to reach the tops of Ceremonial Rock and Lookout Rock, old sea stacks that were left high and dry when the ocean receded. In some parts of the park, plant life is so luxuriant that hikers moving along the trail are sheltered and isolated by walls of vegetation.



Yurok family house

YUROK INDIAN VILLAGE

In the fall of 1990, the newly constructed Yurok Village of Sumeg was dedicated. Funds to create the village were provided by the 1984 State Park Bond Act. The actual construction work was planned and carried out by the Yurok people working with local park staff. Sumeg consists of two typical family houses, a sweat house, three changing houses and one extra-large family house that also serves as a dance house for local Native Americans. Modern amenities include a nearby parking area, a covered cook shelter, and picnic tables.

All of these structures are made from boards split from redwood trees that have fallen in north coast state parks. Stone and other local materials were also used in the structures. Although the idea of constructing a Native American village at Patrick's Point originated in the 1920s, planning did not begin until 1986. Construction began in 1988.

Although the Yurok people had permanent village sites north and south of Patrick's Point, this area was used primarily as a seasonal encampment, and the name "Sumeg" is simply a place name for the Patrick's Point area. Nevertheless, the Yurok village of Sumeg is of cultural importance not only to the Yurok people and Native Americans, but to all Californians. Yearly celebrations are held here by Native Americans and many school groups visit the village when they study California history.

The village of Sumeg is open every day to the public.

NATIVE PLANT GARDEN

In 1973, Patrick's Point Garden Club established what has become a native plant repository, comprised of as many plants as possible that grow in the unique environment of our coastal fog belt and the humid transition zone between the ocean and mountain slopes. The emphasis is on indigenous plants from the Oregon border to the Van Duzen River and from ocean's edge on up the seaward slope of the Coast Range. Most of these plants can be found in open fields or at the edge of wooded areas and forests. As with any garden venture, this native plant garden is not "finished," nor is it completely "furnished" with all possible specimens.

The Native Plant Garden is located just east of and adjacent to the Yurok Indian Village.

TRINIDAD

Many visitors to Patrick's Point like to visit the historic town of Trinidad, just five miles south of the park.

The first incorporated town on the North Coast, and the smallest incorporated town in California with just 325 residents, the site of Trinidad was discovered and described on Trinity Sunday in 1775 by the Spanish maritime explorer, Captain Bruno de Hezeta. The town was founded in April 1850 and enjoyed a flurry of activity for a few years, when it was the port from which miners and supplies reached the Trinity Mines and later the miner's camps at Gold Bluffs Beach in present-day Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park. Trinidad once

had some 3,000 residents and served as the county seat from 1851 to 1854, but once the gold rush was over most everyone drifted away.

Today, park visitors enjoy scenic vistas of the rugged coastline and Trinidad Bay. The old lighthouse on Trinidad Head, a replica of the original, is no longer open to the public. Boat launching and rentals are available, as are party boats for fishing expeditions.

Trinidad State Beach, another prime fishing spot, is located just north of Trinidad where two small creeks enter the sea. On the high bluffs above the beach there is an open meadow with scattered stands of alders. Visitor facilities include restrooms, parking, and a small picnic area with tables and stoves.

CAMPING AND PICKNICKING

The Abalone, Penn Creek, and Agate Beach campgrounds have 124 family campsites, each with a table, stove, and cupboard. Water faucets and restrooms are nearby. The park also features fully developed picnic areas complete with barbecues and restrooms. During the summer, a variety of interpretive programs are available. Check the bulletin boards for specific details about campfire programs, nature hikes and other interpretive programs of special interest. Youngsters enjoy learning about the environment through the Junior Ranger Program.

The park's group campground, Beach Creek, can accommodate up to 150 people. There is a covered cook shelter, hot showers, seating for 150 and a place to build a traditional campfire.

Campsite reservations can be made by calling MISTIX at 1-800-444-7275 and using your VISA, Mastercard, or American Express. Reservations can be made up to eight weeks in advance (12 weeks for the group camp) and until just twenty-four hours before arriving. The reservation period is generally from the Friday before Memorial Day to the week after Labor Day.

There are two picnic areas that can be reserved directly through the park. Red Alder is suitable for groups up to 150 people and Bishop Pine for smaller groups of 50 or less. Red Alder has a covered cook shelter with propane stove and sink, restrooms, picnic tables, a fire ring, and barbecue. Bishop Pine has more limited parking, a barbecue and picnic tables. Restrooms are nearby.

PLEASE REMEMBER...

To make your visit to Patrick's Point as pleasant as possible, please keep these points in mind:

Dogs are permitted only in the campground and day-use areas, not on the trails or on the beach. They must be kept in an enclosed vehicle or tent at night, and on a controlled six-foot leash during the day. There is an extra fee to bring a dog into the park.

Swimming is not advised. The ocean off Patrick's Point is cold and dangerous. Children should not even be allowed to wade, as there are unexpected holes in the underwater sand and the undertow can be very strong. Occasional "sleeper" waves appear unexpectedly and can be much larger than previous waves.

All plant and animal life is protected. Please do not pick wildflowers or mushrooms, as they are an important part of a very fragile ecosystem.

Bears and raccoons enjoy a good meal, so don't leave your food or garbage out to attract them. Ice chests and camp cupboards are not bear proof, so store your supplies in airtight containers. They will usually be safe in your car trunk. And don't feed the animals! It's illegal and it isn't safe or healthy for them.

Patrick's Point State Park
Trinidad, CA 95570
707/677-3570



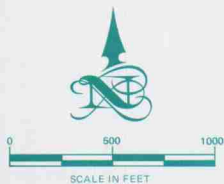
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*Design, Layout & Illustration by Ron Warr
Cover Photo by Sally Meyers*



- Paved Roads
- Trails
- Trails (handicap accessible)
- Nature Trail
- Campground
- Hike & Bike Camp
- Picnic Area
- Points of Interest
- Locked Gates
- Telephone
- Restrooms
- Restrooms With Showers



PETE WILSON
Governor
DOUGLAS P. WHEELER
Secretary for Resources
DONALD W. MURPHY
Director,
Dept. Parks & Recreation



BEARS AND RACCONS CAN MEAN TROUBLE! DON'T INVITE THEM TO YOUR CAMPSITE!

Bears are a part of the natural scene of the park, but inviting them into your campsite, on purpose or accidentally, can result in damage to your camping equipment – or to you! Though he may appear friendly, the bear is a *wild* animal – and he can outrun you, and climb trees besides.

Raccoons, too, may seem friendly and cute, but the acquisition of food is their top priority. Hands, fingers, or even ankles that come between them and their food can get painfully nipped.

Both bears and raccoons will seek out food items stored in your campsite and will go to great lengths to obtain possession, but a few precautions will assure you of a safe park stay:

- ☐ Keep a clean camp. A bear or raccoon uses his nose to read your menu – and if there's lots of fragrant food odors from leftovers to attract him, it's quite likely he'll pay you a surprise visit.
- ☐ Store food in airtight containers, or wrap it carefully. Wrapped food is normally safe locked in a hard-topped car or in a car trunk, but campsite cupboards and ice chests are *not* bear proof!
- ☐ Don't feed the animals. Hungry animals will frequently beg for food, but once fed they may become aggressive in their demands for more.
- ☐ Never get between a mother and her young. Young animals are cute – but an irate mother isn't.